

● Stakeholders Meetings

The department is again offering 4 Continuing Education Units credit (CEU's) for those who attend the meetings and successfully complete a take-home examination.

Stakeholder Meeting Schedule

March 20, 2001 6 PM-8 PM	Douglas County PUD 1151 Valley Mall Pkwy, E. Wenatchee	April 4, 2001 6 PM-8 PM	Walla Walla College Canaday Bldg. #128, Walla Walla
March 21, 2001 6 PM-8 PM	Okanogan County PUD 1331 2nd Ave N., Okanogan	April 5, 2001 6 PM-8 PM	Benton County PUD 10 th & Hwy 395, Kennewick
March 27, 2001 6 PM-8 PM	Yakima School Dist. Administration 104 North 4 th Avenue, Yakima	April 10, 2001 7 PM- 9 PM	L&I Office 12806 Gateway Dr, Tukwila
March 28, 2001 6 PM-8 PM	Ellensburg Best Inn 901 Berry Road, Ellensburg	April 11, 2001 7 PM- 9 PM	Everett – Snohomish Co PUD 2320 California St, Everett
March 29, 2001 6 PM-8 PM	Moses Lake L&I Office 3001 West Broadway, Moses Lake		

● 2ND NOTICE: New WAC rules effective January 18, 2001

Chapter 296-46A WAC—Safety Standards-Installing Electrical Wires and Equipment-Administrative Rules was **effective January 18th**. Contractors and installers have until April 18, 2001 to come into full compliance with these rules. Until then our electrical inspectors will allow installations to meet requirements as outlined in either the old chapter 296-46 WAC or the new chapter 296-46A WAC, not a mixture of both. This transition period is intended to give contractors and installers a chance to obtain a printed copy of the rules and become familiar with all the law and rule revisions before the department requires full compliance. Published rules are available now on the electrical website. Printed publications will be available later this month.

Chapter 296-401B WAC—Certification of Competency for Journeyman Electricians was also effective January 18, 2001. There is no transition period for compliance with WAC 296-401B. This chapter of the WAC has transition periods defined within the rule.

● New WAC Rule on Equipment Ground Fault Protection Systems

This is the first article in a series intended to remind our readers of the technical changes made to the electrical WAC rules. WAC 296-46A-215 and 23062 both state: “*Equipment ground fault protection systems required by the NEC must be tested prior to being placed into service to verify proper installation and operation of the system...This test or a subsequent test must include all system feeders.*” If you have this test done on only a portion of the system, it must be repeated once the entire feeder system is in place. If you add feeders to existing systems with equipment ground fault protection, you must have final testing done on the system. You should incorporate the “system shut-down” necessary to perform the final testing into your construction plans. Further details on testing procedures and required documentation are in the specific rules.

● Contracting in Washington—Basic Requirements

Two statutes regulate all construction contracting in Washington. **Chapter 18.27 RCW—Registration of Contractors** is a consumer protection law that covers “registered” general construction contractors and 60+ different construction contracting specialties. **Chapter 19.28 RCW—Electricians and Electrical Installations** is a public safety law that covers “licensed” general electrical contracting, 11 different

electrical contracting specialties, and telecommunications contracting. There is no crossover of the scope-of-work and responsibilities of these two distinct contracting entities. If you provide services that are under the jurisdiction of each of the two contracting laws, then you must become a contractor under both laws and obtain a contractor's surety bond for each.

Effective June 8, 2000 the jurisdiction for telecommunications work on customer premises (the customer side of the network demarcation point) was removed from chapter 18.27 RCW and placed under chapter 19.28 RCW. All firms doing this work are required to be "licensed" telecommunications contractors under chapter 19.28 RCW today.

Effective January 18, 2001 with the revisions to chapter 296-46A WAC and chapter 296-401B WAC, all firms doing **residential sound** wiring installations, **electric gate, door, and similar systems** installations, and firms contracting **nonresidential or residential electrical maintenance** work for property owners must be "licensed" as specialty electrical contractors. This is required due to the electrical board and department's revocation of several existing "illegal" policies and practices and the development of regulations in the WAC that are consistent with the contractor licensing and electrician certification requirements of chapter 19.28 RCW.

The department worked extensively with various stakeholder groups to develop rules and procedures that will allow firms and workers performing these installations an opportunity and path to come in to compliance with the Electricians and Electrical Installations law. This opportunity will be available until December 31, 2001. (The **domestic well, HVAC/refrigeration limited energy, and nonresidential lighting maintenance** specialties will also be open during this time.) Full compliance with the law has two separate parts: 1) becoming an electrical or telecommunications contractor requires contractor licensing/administrator certification and, 2) doing "hands-on" electrical work requires specialty electrician/electrical trainee certification. We will detail these items in future issues of this newsletter.

● **Meter /Mast Repair and or Replacement Fee**

WAC 296-46-910(1)(c)(ii) and 296-46-910(2)(b) set the fees for the maintenance/repair of a meter/mast (no alteration to the service or feeder) at \$33.50 for residential and \$61.50 for commercial repairs. This subsection's lower fees are intended to cover the inspection cost for wind, weather, vehicular, meter terminal failure, or other damage to existing meter/mast systems. Work includes the replacement or repair of the meter, mast, and/or conductors up to the first point of termination on the service or building disconnecting means. Any relocation of the mast or meter and overhead/underground conversions must be permitted as altered services.

● **Electrical Board Recruitment**

Three Electrical Board appointments are scheduled to expire on July 7, 2001. The positions represent combination electrical/RCDD certified engineers, certified electricians, and telecommunications workers. Incumbent members and new interested qualified persons may apply for these positions.

See the February 2001 *ELECTRICAL CURRENTS* for more information or contact Angie Wharton at (360) 902-5259 or Rhonnda Jenkins at (360) 902-5572. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, completed application form, and current resume to the office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, PO Box 44460, Olympia, WA 98504-4460, by no **later than April 1, 2001.**

● **Code Question of the Month**

This month's Code Question: Arc-fault circuit-interrupters (AFCI) are required in dwelling unit bedrooms as of? **A.** Date the State of Washington adopted the 1999 code. **B.** July 1, 2001 **C.** January 1, 2002. **D.** When the State of Washington adopts the 2002 code.

Last month's Code Question: (*The source of power for a 1999 NEC Article 700 Emergency System may be a tap ahead of the main service disconnect.*) The answer is: False NEC 700-12 no longer includes a tap ahead of the main disconnect as an acceptable option.